

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **STATE CAPITOL GEARS UP TO CELEBRATE CESAR CHAVEZ DAY**

*Chavez family and UFW President will join Legislators in paying homage  
to the late labor and civil rights leader.*

**Sacramento, CA-** The California Latino Legislative Caucus will host the Cesar Chavez Day Ceremony, which will honor the late labor and civil rights leader and the founder of the United Farm Workers (UFW), Cesar E. Chavez on Monday, April 1, 2002 in the Assembly Chamber.

This year, the ceremony will recognize various honored guests including UFW President Arturo Rodriguez, Fernando Chavez (Chavez's son), former farmworker and lifelong UFW member Esther Uranda, and Andres Irlando, the executive director of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation.

The ceremony will also honor an original member of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), the mostly Filipino American union that merged with Chavez's National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in 1966 to form the UFW. On Mexican Independence Day, September 16, 1965, Chavez's NFWA, with 1,200-member families, voted to join the Filipino American workers of AWOC in what became the five-year Delano Grape Strike. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the UFW (1962-2002).

EVENT: Cesar Chavez Day Ceremony  
WHO: California Latino Legislative Caucus  
Arturo Rodriguez, President, UFW AFL-CIO  
Fernando Chavez, Cesar Chavez's son  
Andres Irlando, Executive Director, Cesar E. Chavez Foundation  
Esther Uranda, Lifelong Member, UFW AFL-CIO  
WHERE: Assembly Chamber, State Capitol Building  
WHEN: Monday, April 1, 2002  
11:00 am

### **Background:**

In 2000, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 984 by Senator Richard G. Polanco (D-Los Angeles) to create an annual state holiday on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Cesar Chavez' birthday, which provides all Californians the opportunity to learn from Cesar Chavez' life and provides schoolchildren the opportunity to learn through community service.

**(MORE)**

More recently, the State Board of Education on February 6, 2002, adopted a model curriculum on the life and work of Cesar Chavez, fulfilling a key provision of Senate Bill 984, that also includes topics on pesticides, immigration, and agriculture's role in the economy.

If you have any questions regarding Cesar Chavez Day Ceremonies, please contact Ricardo Lara at (916) 319-2050 or by e-mail at [ricardo.lara@asm.ca.gov](mailto:ricardo.lara@asm.ca.gov).

**Media Availability: Latino Caucus members and honored guests will be available to the media immediately upon the completion of the ceremony outside the Willie Brown Conference Room.**

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